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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: U.S. IN THE MID-EAST, BOMBINGS
IN BALI

11. Summary: Amid the extensive coverage October 5 of the pan-Blue and pan-Green camps' nominations for the year-end "three-in-one" elections and some local scandals, all major Chinese-language Taipei dailies reported in their inside pages that the pan-Blue alliance blocked the U.S. arms procurement bill again in the Legislative Yuan Tuesday.

12. In terms of editorials and commentaries, "Apple Daily" President James Tu discussed in a commentary in his mass-circulation newspaper the long-term embarrassing situation Washington faces in the Middle East - namely, Washington is at its wit's end with the Muslim world's increasing hostility toward the United States. To gain the support of the Muslim world, Tu suggested that the United States be prepared to fight a half-century war of culture, using the same spirit, persistence, finances and talents that it once adopted when fighting against former Soviet Union. A commentary in the centrist "China Times," on the other hand, commented on the recent blasts in Bali, Indonesia. The article said the ASEAN needs to review its policy because it has a big gap with regard to its campaign against regional terrorism. End summary.

11. U.S. in the Mid-east

"Fifty More Years of Cultural Battles"

"Apple Daily" President James Tu wrote in the mass circulation newspaper [circulation: 570,000] (10/5):

"The United States always brags about itself being a kingdom of information, claiming that it not only possesses the most advanced information technology but its people also enjoy comprehensive freedom of information. As long as time permits and equipped with sufficient language abilities, Americans can access all information worldwide via TVs and Internet and can read and watch all kinds of adversarial viewpoints, including slander and criticism against the United States. But the situation differs greatly in the world outside America, especially in the Muslim world. In the Muslim world, American people discover that they not only do not have a voice but are also deprived of a chance to defend themselves whenever they are misunderstood or [their views] distorted, let alone the attempt to promote American values there.

"The [afore-mentioned predicament] has been an embarrassing situation for the United States for a long time. Washington can send their troops to the Middle East and Afghanistan as if these places were unguarded. But American thinking or American values can hardly find a way to penetrate the Middle East, and Washington is at its wit's end with the increasing hostility of the Muslim world toward the United States. .

"The United States has been getting involved in Mid-east affairs since the 1950s. But for a long time, the Muslim world was simply a battlefield for the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union, and the conservative Islamic forces were used by Washington as a tool to fight against the former Soviet Union's atheism. The United States has never really paid attention to the increasingly radical trend in the Islamic politics. In the wake of the September 11 incident, Washington ran hurriedly to declare a war against the radicals in the Islamic world; it was at that point, the Americans discovered that they knew nothing at all about Islamic civilization or the whole Muslim world, that they had only a few people who understand Islamic languages, religion or culture. .

"To gain the support of the Muslim world, the United States must be prepared to fight a half-a-century-long war of culture, using the same spirit, persistence, finances and talents that it once adopted when fighting

against the former Soviet Union. Washington should not just send a few people to the Middle East to for uncreative, insignificant and vague talk."

12. Bali Bombings

"Terrorist Activities Gradually Multiply in Southeast Asia"

The "International Outlook" column of the centrist, pro-status quo "China Times" [circulation: 400,000] commented (10/5):

"The recent terrorist attacks in Bali, Indonesia, seem to have proven the United States' prediction. Washington views Southeast Asia as the second frontline in its war on terrorism, and it once said that Al Qaeda attempted to set up new bases in Southeast Asia. No matter whether or not such a statement was made because Washington wanted to terrify Southeast Asia into following the United States' policy of war on terrorism, the truth is that some Islamic radicals do want to achieve some ends via terrorist approaches. .

"ASEAN [evidently] has a big gap with regard to its campaign against terrorism. Since the organizing principle for ASEAN states is that each member state is independent in its sovereignty and will not intervene in each other's domestic affairs, it is difficult for the members to work together in fighting against regional terrorism. ASEAN will have to review its policy in the wake of the terrorist bombings in the region."

PAAL